

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals upon Current Topics—Compiled Every Day for the Evening Telegraph.

"SINGLE" SUSAN.

From the N. Y. Tribune. As a general rule, peace, sweetness, and order are never found in their fullness except at conventions of the Woman's Suffrage Association. In the meeting last week at Dayton, Ohio, there was nevertheless a painful scene, which proved that even Miss Anthony is not exempt from the common passions of humanity. The usual speeches had been made, and the usual practical business transacted, when somebody proposed a vote of thanks to Miss Susan B. Anthony...

The whole duty of Congressional man, according to the theory of Mr. Greeley and his disciples in Congress, is, to constantly jigger and adjust a protective tariff upon the conflicting and varying class interests of capitalists who have been so wise as to adopt passive acquiescence in the contribution from the public in order to enable them to continue without loss. The duty of a statesman is to ascertain the amount of these little pecuniary testimonials proper to be paid by the consumer of any given article to the short-sighted being who has entered upon the business of producing it at a higher cost than that for which it was already produced by another man over the water.

GALVANIZING DEMOCRACY.

From the N. Y. Times. The proposition of a few progressive leaders of the Democratic party to accept the political results of the last decade, and to reorganize upon the basis of wider issues, is all very well in theory, but unfortunately for themselves and the country, it is impossible in practice. The ancient animus of the party still controls it, and it is to-day essentially in antagonism to all that has been accomplished since 1860, as it was to all that had been done previous to that year. There is no question of this, and the very best evidence of it is to be found in the fact that leaders and organs who have the courage and moral progress are at once censured and ostracized by the party. Independence of thought or action is always sure to bring those who exercise it to grief. Democracy will not tolerate it, and experience has almost invariably shown that malcontents are either speedily brought into subjection, or that they ultimately drift away from the party altogether, as was the case with the Barn-burners and Free-soilers.

The old party has been through a trying ordeal, which many have thought would prove fatal to it. But it possesses a large share of obstinate assertion and vitality. Like the Ultra-Tory party of England, it resists all progress, and refuses to accept any new ideas or enter upon any new line of action. It neither learns nor forgets. During the war it contended for its ancient doctrine as steadily as ever, and was only beaten back from it step by step and by unceasing effort by the Republican party. The very moment the war ended it resumed its old position, and finally became the avowed champion of obstruction and reversal of all progressive adjustment. People who cling to the traditions of the Democratic party, and would fan reorganize it on the basis of progress, are only deceiving themselves to no purpose. It is growing more and more evident every day that a new struggle is being organized by the party, and particularly by the Southern wing of it, which will settle the complexion of the canvass of 1872, and afford a justification of the Republican policy of intrenching itself behind constitutional defenses.

Leading papers in various parts of the South are openly discussing the validity of the several Constitutional amendments which have been adopted since the Rebellion broke out, and boldly assert their purpose of resistance to them. They declare that the issues upon which the Democratic party was formed are by no means obsolete, and that it is bad policy to abandon the old organization, or to make any new alliances. The Constitution, they argue, is a dead letter, and the only supreme law is the will of Congress. The checks and balances adopted by the founders of the Government for the preservation of our political equilibrium are all destroyed, according to their interpretation, and the only hope of restoring them is by the defeat of the Republican party and the undoing of all its work for the past ten years. We believe that this is to be the attitude of the Democratic party in the next national canvass. The indications are conclusive to our mind that the policy foreshadowed by Frank Blair's Brothhead letter will be again adopted and boldly adhered to.

We have little fear of the result of such a contest, provided only the Republican party will be true to itself and to its great trust. The only danger is that the leaders will not appreciate the impending crisis in time, and conform to its requirements in the way of preparation for resistance. The party must be nationalized in policy and organization; we must adopt a broader action and effect a fuller accomplishment of our principles. If we do not—and that speedily—the result may be disastrous. The interval of time for all this is short, but, if properly improved, it is sufficient. The chief danger of delay lies in the fact that it may be accepted as an indication of weakness or incapacity, and this should be carefully avoided. Meanwhile, the responsibility rests with Congress. If it acts vigorously and wisely, the contest of 1872 may be substantially decided in advance.

TREATMENT OF THE INSANE.

From the N. Y. Tribune. Our English exchanges come to us filled with indignant attacks upon the present system of treatment in use in their insane asylums. Two keepers of the county madhouse at Lancaster have just been sentenced to seven years' penal servitude for the murder of one William Wilson, who was admitted to the asylum on December 17, and in less than a week was pummeled and kneaded to death, his ribs being literally broken into bits under the knees of his attendants. The Earl of Shaftesbury, head of the Board of Commissioners in Lunacy, calls attention to this, and to "the frequent cases of like cruelty and neglect," in the Times, but without suggesting any effectual remedy. In fact, as the English journals acknowledge, there is no remedy so long as helpless idiots and lunatics are massed together in large asylums, under the absolute control of keepers over whom the surveillance of the law is slight, and against whose cruelty in such cases as this there is ordinarily no evidence but that of the crazed patients, whom fear will keep silent. A strong feeling is growing up, both in England and this country, against these enormous madhouses, where, as says the Examiner, human beings are aggregated together to be treated like wild beasts, or, under the mildest treatment, to foster and breed insanity by mere contact. The Lancet is foremost in denouncing, on medical grounds, the modern monster asylums. The treatment now practised in Scotland and Belgium is strongly recommended in this "The patient is boarded in the country, where he is furnished with light employment and surrounded by sane people; the fever of his blood has here a chance to cool, and gleams of the lost light of reason to gladden his troubled brain." This system, we believe, has been used for many years with great success in Germany. The matter deserves attention here as much as in England. We have been so wont to regard the great piles of east stone in which the insane are imprisoned for cure as one of the great humanitarian triumphs of the age, that we trouble ourselves very little about what goes on inside of them. So glaring has been the public negligence that it is only lately we have awakened to the fact that they could be

and were used as convenient prisons for sane people. The Pennsylvania Legislature passed a law regulating the method of admission into madhouses last year, and from one of her most respectable asylums eleven sane men were discharged in a week, whose relatives had supposed they were comfortably stowed away for life. No such law has been introduced in New York. In the very highest of these private asylums, the tortures of the shower-bath, straight-jacket, and saddle are still used; but worse than these for these are only prescribed by the superintendents is the fact that the patients are under the almost absolute control of keepers who are almost invariably selected from the lowest and most uneducated classes. In the male wards strength is, perhaps necessarily, the principal requisite in the attendants, who are ordinarily low, stolid immigrants. Few women of refinement and tenderness, unfortunately, are willing to accept the place of keeper in a madhouse. The fact is, therefore, perhaps unavoidable, that the men and women thus thrown in contact with the poor creatures who are hurt in soul and not in body, are those least fitted to understand their needs and most apt to abuse by cruelty the power entrusted to them. Of all helpless creatures, the one who most strongly calls for our protection and skill and patience is he upon whose most vital part, the very life of his life, darkness has fallen. If his leg were broken we would give him careful nursing, pure air, ease and comfort; but when it is only his brain that is diseased, we give him for a companion and keeper a man whom he probably would not employ as a servant, and fling him with his own peculiar mania into the company of four or five hundred other maniacs, that they may teach each other more reasonable views of life.

It needs only a visit to the best of our asylums, and a cool, unbiased examination of it, according to the light of ordinary common sense, to make us doubt the efficacy of all overgrown routine reforms. Men (and much less women) will not be made sane by platoons, according to one vague, indiscriminate system. What is just doubt with us is certainty in England. The call for a change to the Scotch mode is loud and imperative. We should profit by their example so far at least as to place our public and private asylums under strict legal surveillance. The latter have long since ceased to be charities, and are joint stock concerns, which yield heavy dividends to their corporators. Whether they are efficient or not in their mode of cure perhaps concerns those only who make use of them; but it is the duty of the public to make such atrocities as that of Lancaster impossible in them. They are not impossible now.

Governor Geary as an Orator.

From the Harbinger Patriot. If there be one quality for which Governor Geary will be more distinguished than another, it is the excellence and brilliancy of his oratory. As a soldier and a statesman he has won unfading laurels, but the intoxicating rewards of the orator are most dearly coveted by his Excellency. Nothing so delightful to him as to see the crowd swayed to and fro by his masterly eloquence. One of the peculiarities of the oratory of the Governor is the skill with which he can address himself to the hearts of the particular audience with which he has to deal. There are several anecdotes which illustrate this quality, but we need not now refer to them. An instance of his wonderful versatility and skill is his recent address to the negroes in the Capitol grounds, on the occasion of the celebration of the fifteenth amendment. He appeared before his audience altogether unprepared. And here it may be remarked that his Excellency never is, and never will be prepared. The suddenness of the emergency brings into immediate play all his oratorical powers. All that is required is the audience. Set the Governor before it and the eloquence gushes from him as from an Italian improvisator. Preparation we fear would mar his best efforts. In the address to the negroes he at once gained their sympathy by declaring that he had been an abolitionist from the sixteenth year of his age. He saw a gang of slaves once, one hundred and fifty in number, handcuffed to a log chain, and march away to town to be sold. He said:—"I yearned in my heart for them, and from that day became a confirmed abolitionist." Then skillfully changing the theme the Governor told his audience of a remarkable negro whom he once met in Mexico. Exclaimed the orator:—"The best mathematician I ever knew was as black as the ace of spades, the collector at Vera Cruz I thought, up to the time I met him, but I knew something of mathematics, but after a short conversation with him I slunk away conquered." The fame of the great Arago, of Hutton, of Legendre, of Napier, and other learned mathematicians, must hereafter grow dim before that of the nameless negro whom Governor Geary met in Mexico. It must have been an inspiring sight to witness Geary and this negro in Vera Cruz doing sums. It is the first time our hero was ever defeated—ciphering with a darkey in Mexico.

Turning back again to his youthful career as an abolitionist, the orator, with well-assured humanity, said:—"I do not and never did consider it disgraceful to say I was an abolitionist, although I was sixteen years of age before I arrived at that point. And now how grateful to my heart is it that, during my life from sixteen years of age to the present time, I have never hesitated to give my voice and right hand," etc. We must refer the reader to the printed report for the remainder of this remarkable address. It has been said that successful orators are all deceivers, and it is quite evident that Governor Geary is no exception. The crowd loves to be deceived, and he who would gain their good will must indulge largely in invention. Governor Geary was addressing himself to an audience consisting mainly of negroes, not one of whom could challenge his assertions; and in this, we repeat, consists his skill as an orator. He had been addressing an audience of white men in Westmoreland or Cambria, he would have been extremely careful not to make the assertion that he had been a "confirmed abolitionist" from his sixteenth year. To them he would have boasted of his ancient and unadulterated Democracy.

When John W. Geary was sixteen years of age, we are carried back nearly to the time when Lloyd Garrison and other agitators began their abolition movement. We venture to say that none of the original Abolitionists ever heard of him. He was a Democratic office-holder as soon as he could get a position after attaining his majority, and it is not likely that he ever communicated to the most intimate friend the dangerous and detestable opinions which he held. To have done so would have lost him his office, and the good will of his neighbors, Whigs and Democrats alike; and John W. Geary never was the man to make such sacrifices for a principle. There was not, in the early days of his life, a solitary Abolitionist in the county of Cambria or Westmoreland. Not one. So far from receiving any assistance to their despised cause, it is safe to say that the name of John W. Geary cannot be

found on any subscription list of the abolitionists. Not a stray number of the Anti-Slavery Standard ever stuck out of his coat-pocket, and he carries his opinions so closely about him that no man ever found them out. He voted for David R. Porter, a good Democrat, when he might have supported Lemoyne, had he been a confirmed abolitionist. He supported a slaveholder in the person of James K. Polk, while the abolitionists voted for James G. Birney. About the same time he was distributing Democratic newspapers among the laborers on the Portage Railroad, and charging the subscription price on the check rolls, and these papers constantly denounced the abolitionists as seditious and treasonable in their conduct and speeches. He could not have held office one hour had his abolitionism been known. He could not have been elected colonel of a regiment during the Mexican War. President Polk never would, in response to his importunities, have sent him as postmaster to San Francisco, and the people would never afterwards have chosen him Alcalde had they suspected him of abolitionism.

Geary voted for Mr. Buchanan in 1856. Had he been an Abolitionist he would have preferred Fremont. Because he pretended to be a Democrat he was sent to Kansas as Governor. We have carefully read Dr. Gibon's interesting book containing all of Governor Geary's speeches, including the Gardiner one, but there is not a breath of abolitionism in the whole of them. He kept his principles carefully hid about him until a week since, when he declared to his negro auditors that he had been an abolitionist from his sixteenth year! This is the most remarkable instance of life-long success in concealing real opinions on the part of a politician that has ever come under the observation of the public. Most persons would be inclined in their indignation to apply some other term concerning Geary's avowal of abolitionism to the negroes, but we put it down as an example of his most striking and most familiar characteristic as an orator and a man.

Mrs. Lincoln's Pension.

From the N. Y. World. There is an unseemliness in the abortive attempts to procure a pension for the widow of Abraham Lincoln. We suppose few people care much whether she has a moderate pension or not; but it belittles Congress and disparages her to have the subject come up every session in the form of a bill which fails to pass. If pensions of that kind are inadmissible on grounds of economy, or constitutionality, or any other valid public grounds, the application ought to have been referred to a respectable committee, and a report made setting forth the reasons of a refusal, which could not then be construed as a reflection on her personal character. She would then be no longer tantalized with vain hopes of Government assistance, and something might be done for her relief by private liberality. If the reasons for refusal are not public but personal, it would have seemed discreet and delicate for her friends to have ascertained from the members of both houses, by private consultation, whether they would vote for a pension, and if a majority could not be procured let the subject quietly drop. If given at all it should be given with a graceful appearance of liberality; if refused, no noise should be made about it.

It is natural that Mrs. Lincoln should think she has claims on the nation. The unbounded eulogies which have been lavished on her husband as the great martyr of a great cause, and the chief among all the recent benefactors of his country, contrast singularly enough with the fact that his widow is an unsuccessful beggar for a modest pension to save her from want. Even if the Government ought not to relieve her, it would seem strange that she should be left in destitution. Mr. Stanton ranked far below Mr. Lincoln in Republican liberality, but his family was promptly and amply provided for. Nobody thought of applying to Congress for a pension, but a hundred thousand dollars was immediately raised by subscription. A sum half as large was raised in the same way for Mrs. Rawlins, although her husband had never been very conspicuous except as a member of General Grant's staff. General Grant himself, and General Sherman, have received heavy donations; and the private liberality of admirers seems a more fitting way of attesting appreciation and gratitude than the bestowal of money from the Treasury, by stretch of constitutional authority or the charitable fiction of classing deceased civilians with men who fell in battle. If the bill granting a pension to Mrs. Lincoln fails to pass the Senate, we hope no more attempts of the kind will be made. It ought to be easy to do for Mrs. Lincoln what has been done for the family of Mr. Stanton, by the same method of private subscription, if there is any sincerity in the abounding praise which it is the habit of all Republicans to bestow upon her husband.

The White Damon and Black Pythias.

From the N. Y. Standard. The Pull Mall Gazette said the other day "it would be impossible to find now a man in America who would admit that he had ever denied the right of the negro to vote." Nothing could be more truthful than this assertion, which shows a knowledge of American politics almost incredible in an Englishman. The ratification of the fifteenth amendment worked miracles in politics; it suddenly transformed the nigger into a colored man, and African baboons into intelligent citizens. The most ardent apologists for slavery are now the most uncompromising advocates of impartial suffrage. Wendell Phillips' occupation is gone. Nothing is more touching than the generosity with which the editor of the New York Express admits that he has been wrong all his life, and that the negro is not only his superior, but may even be his superior. Those eloquent articles which have lately appeared in that paper appealing to Democrats to forget their prejudices, to say no more about monkeys of African descent, to accept the negro as their peer, have been welcomed with a burst of enthusiasm by the party. The readers of the Express now declare that they prefer the smell of the negro to the perfume of the roses of Cashmere, and that a flat nose is a type of higher beauty than the Grecian. Brick Poncey, too, in the Democrat daily advocates universal sympathy, and offers his paper for one year free to any person who will marry a colored lady, stipulating that she shall be pure African. This magnificent bribe shows his perfect sincerity. As for the World, it is wild on the subject of negro superiority, and three or four genuine freed-men are now employed upon its editorial staff, especially engaged to write upon Southern politics. Honorable John Morrissey would knock any man down who should dare to deny that Senator Revels is not the equal of Senator Saulsbury, and Saulsbury himself demands that the fifteenth amendment shall be enforced in Delaware. In Congress Mr. James Brooks rises and insists that the negro representatives shall be admitted from Louisiana. In Philadelphia, Alderman McMillan

starts a colored brother in the whisky business, and urges all good Democrats to patronize his bar. Every day in Broadway we see white and black men embracing, and, if, sometimes, there is a mistake made in the sex, it only shows that the millennium of good feeling is carried to an affecting extreme. From all these facts it will be seen that the Pull Mall Gazette is right, and that all prejudice against the colored race is forever ended in America.

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